

May 31, 2019

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: USTelecom Ex Parte Notice, WC Docket No. 10-90, *Connect America Fund*;
WC Docket No. 11-10, *Modernizing the Form 477 Data Program*; WC Docket
No. 19-126, *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 29, 2019, representatives of USTelecom, AT&T, CenturyLink, Consolidated, Frontier, Verizon and Windstream (USTelecom Members) met with FCC Wireline Bureau and Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force Staff; the full list of participants is below.

The purpose of the meeting was for USTelecom to present an overview of its initial proposals and thoughts for the Rural Digital Opportunities Fund. The discussion tracked the hand-out provided for Staff, which is attached as Appendix A. In particular, USTelecom Members highlighted the importance of approaching the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund with a long-term vision so it is not just a means for last-mile connections, but it is also a bridge to a 5G future in rural America. USTelecom also emphasized adopting its Broadband Mapping Initiative,¹ which can serve as a basis for effectively and efficiently targeting support to *all* unserved rural locations, which we believe should be a hallmark of the program.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

_____/s/_____
Mike Saperstein

Vice President, Policy & Advocacy

cc: Meeting Participants

¹ See, e.g., Letter of B. Lynn Follansbee, VP Law & Policy, USTelecom to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 11-10, CC Docket No. 10-90 (Mar. 21, 2019).

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Meeting Participants

FCC:

Kirk Burgee, Nathan Eagan, Chelsea Fallon, Katie King, Heidi Lankau, Sue McNeil, Alex Minard, Steve Rosenberg in person, with Ryan Palmer via phone

USTelecom:

AT&T: Mary Henze, Brendan Haggerty in person with Hany Fahmy via phone

Consolidated: Mike Skrivan (via phone)

CenturyLink: Tiffany Smink (via phone)

Frontier: AJ Burton, Diana Eisner

USTelecom: Mike Saperstein in person with B. Lynn Follansbee via phone

Verizon: Alan Buzacott

Windstream: Thomas Whitehead